



**Thanksgiving Day
November 25**

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NEW P.D. FILE LISTINGS

1981
Volume XII Issue 10 November 1993 The Preferred Newsletter for Milwaukee Area computer Enthusiasts since 1981

MILATARI-LIMITED EDITION

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**This Month:****General Meeting Giving Thanks**

Saturday, Nov. 20 - Noon

Greenfield Park Lutheran Church

1236 S. 115th St

December Meeting 18th - Noon.

Executive Board Meeting

(All members invited)

Sunday, Dec. 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Shakey's Pizza

96th & National Ave.

President announcement :

We are still plagued by a minor problem but a major nuisance. We need volunteers for the SIG organizer, Mac PD dean, and public relation personnel.

Membership

MilAtari is open to all individuals and families interested in computing. Annual dues are \$22 per membership and includes a one year subscription to the Limited Edition, access to the Publications Library, and allows purchases from all Public Domain Libraries and the Resale Shop.

Meetings

MilAtari Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month at Greenfield Park Lutheran Church, 1236 S. 115th St. The doors open at noon. Members socialize during the initial hour while browsing through the libraries. Purchases can be made from the PD offerings and club and/or member sale merchandise. The current PD selections are demonstrated during the milling period, followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m. Special helps and classes available afterward.

MilAtari By-Laws**Section XII, Article 1**

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MilAtari Ltd.
The Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group
Post Office Box 14038
West Allis, WI 53214

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VP - ST	Ed Newman	628-2556
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The Editor gladly accepts submissions by mail, on floppy disc, sent in ASCII (preferably) or any other standard word processing format using absolutely no formatting within the doc, as in tabbing, indenting, centering, bold, italics, etc. For information on placing ads, contact the Editor. Submissions may also be made through either MilAtari BBS in the "Newsletter" room or file sig.

All of this publication is produced on Atari Mega computers and printed on an SLM 804 using Ditek's CALAMUS. Newsletter office hours are variable. The Editor has an answering machine; and questions may also be answered by Dr. Armin Baier, or on MilAtari BBS in the Newsletter room.

**PRESIDENTIAL ERUDITION**

by Dave Glish

I would like to thank you the members for participating in our recent telephone poll, which was conducted by Linda Heinrich. The results of the poll are as follows:

A total of 50 persons were contacted. Approximately 50% of the members own more than one type of computer. 1) On the question of whether people would be interested in MilAtari becoming Multiplatform 72% In favor 20% Atari Only 8% Undecided 2) On the question of whether people feel that the club is doing enough for the members in the way of demo's, SIG's etc. 60% Feel we do enough 36% Feel we do not do enough 4% Undecided 3) On the question of whether people would remain members if we did go Multiplatform 84% Yes 6% No 10% Undecided

As you can see, there is definite interest in a multiplatform MilAtari. Now we need to decide how MilAtari should change to meet these needs. We can discuss this further at the November General Meeting.

Ed Newman made a suggestion at the October Board Meeting. He suggested that we have an open question and answer and discussion forum during our monthly meetings. We can discuss important issues such as, the future of MilAtari and Atari Corp. We can also answer general questions you may have about using your computer. You might have the answer to a question that has been frustrating another matter.

The Club BBS is still down as of the end of October. I will be asking the Board of Directors to approve the purchase of a new hard drive mechanism to get the BBS back up and active. The BBS is an essential tool for the running of MilAtari. It is where we communicate between meetings, upload software for the Public Domain Libraries and communicate with others from around the country.

A decision was made at the last Board Meeting to begin looking for alternative meeting sites. Our income from disk sales and the Resale shop are no longer sufficient to cover the rent for our monthly meetings (we are paid up at Greenfield Lutheran Church through the end of the year). If you have any suggestions, please let me know at the next meeting.

Dennis Wilson has volunteered to begin producing an IBM public domain library for the club. These disks will be "Ready to run". You can run these IBM programs directly from disk or load them into your hard drive, just like the MilAtari disk have been. Dennis will be stepping down as ST Librarian (as of the end of the year) to take on this new position. I would like to thank Dennis for all the years he has put in providing the club

(continued from page 3)

with first class Atari PD software. Dennis has held the position of PD librarian for over six years.

MilAtari continues to need volunteers to fill vacant Board positions. Joe Mengel, our Secretary, will be taking over the Newsletter Editor position. Linda Heinrich, our Publications Librarian, will take over Joe's secretary duties. There is still a need for people in the following positions:

1) Special Interest Group Chairperson. This person is responsible for arranging demonstrations and seminars for the monthly meetings.

2) Publications Librarian. This person is responsible for overseeing the club's publication library.

3) ST Public Domain Librarian (as of January). To accumulate and assemble Public Domain Software disks for the club.

4) Resale Shop Librarian. To maintain the resale shop, sell software and hardware and purchase software and hardware for resale.

One local Atari BBS is proclaiming that MilAtari is dead or dying. Looking at the number of open Board positions I can see where they are basing this assumption. Of course this BBS also encourages anonymous character assassination and seems to spend an inordinate amount of time and energy bashing local Atari groups.

Let's prove that the participants on New Dimensions are wrong.

Dave

A very Pleasant Experience

About ten days ago, my mega4 computer became non-functioning. I had Carl Verbanac over to check the chattering of the monitor and the subsequent freezing of the picture. I even called Andy Learner in Miami, Florida. None of the friends suggestions solved the problem. I then call Don Bahr of Compu-seller West, in St Charles, Illinois. He gave me phone directions of ways to isolate the problem. None worked. I then took the computer and the hard drive to St Charles. Of course I could have sent it by UPS, but I wanted the computer fixed yesterday. Don Bahr put the computer and the hard drive through all the diagnostic tests, and found that there was a faulty switch in the computer. This was all done within an hour after I delivered the computer to him. After replacing the switch, I was on my way back to Milwaukee, and functioning normally again. Another time several months ago my Atari Laser Printer SLM 804 malfunctioned. Don Bahr gave me directions of how to assess the problem and a solution. No need to take the printer to him in St Charles. Last fall my mega4 crashed. At that time I took the computer to him on a Sunday afternoon. He took time to replace the power supply on that occasion and had me on my way with a functioning computer the same day too. I have been very satisfied with his promptness and ability to help me at any time. I also heard that he did some excellent work for several Atari users in Madison, Wisconsin. I highly recommend him for computer sales and repair on Atari and also IBM.

Armin

ST Public Domain

Dennis Wilson

ST PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS TO BE ADDED TO THE LIBRARY IN NOVEMBER 1992

MilAtari Ltd. ST Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of \$1.75 per disk for Disks 1-300, which are single-sided, and \$3.50 per disk for Disks 301 up, which are double-sided. All disks are available through mail order for an additional \$.50 per disk. Special package prices may also be in effect at club meetings for certain disks or quantities of disks. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities of MilAtari Ltd. Some of the programs on these disks have been released as shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful. The MilAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS. Librarians of other clubs are encouraged to contact our ST Librarian concerning trading of programs in their respective libraries.

DISK 446 - UTILITY DISK

BREAKTHRU: Breakthru - A 64 track professional quality MIDI sequencer with a difference. At the same time as it plays your MIDI instruments, the program will play back samples through your computer or add-on cartridge! Add to that a host of powerful editing facilities, unique features like Gajits' Diamond Drag note editing, plus an ease of use to astound you, and you'll see why it is called Breakthru.

EVEREST: Everest, The simple and genial GEM Text Editor - A easy to learn ASCII text editor. It offers the following features: 1) Runs with all Atari computers and with all known graphic cards (apart from ST low resolution), 2) Fast scrolling on all models, with or without the blitter, 3) No cursor overrun (or similar annoying glitches), 4) Standard GEM interface, 5) Turbo C Editor compatible keyboard shortcuts, 6) Capable of loading large (>300Kb) files without problems, 7) Almost every command can be controlled via the keyboard, drop down menus or dialogs (even block marking!), 8) Enables the use of GDOS (mono-spaced) fonts, provided GDOS is installed, 9) No external RSC file, so Everest is well suited to residing outside folders on the root directory, 10) Everest employs dynamic memory allocation to leave the maximum possible memory for other applications. Ideal for multitasking environments and accessories, 11) Hard tabs, 12) GEM Clipboard support, 13) Turbo-C Help Accessory support,

STPD

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and 14) Up to 10 active files.

WINNER11: Winner Selection Program V1.1 - A program designed for the random selection of door prize or "lottery" type winners out of the memberlist for a user group. This program requires a text file, WINNER.DAT, be in the current folder. This can have up to sixty records, (one per line). Each line or record should not exceed 22 characters and spaces. This file can be edited by a text editor for the "List of possible winners." This list may be the names or ticket numbers.

DISK 447 - UTILITY DISK

ANIMTOOL: Animtool - A utility for stringing a sequence of low-res image files together into an animation. It uses delta compression (only storing the differences between frames) to reduce the size and increase the playback speed of the animation files it generates.

AUD_CD20: Audio Compact Disc Player For the Atari ST/TT Systems V2.0a - An accessory for playing compact discs music disks on your Atari. It supports background listening of your music.

BACKWARD: Backward, the ST Emulator for Falcon 030 - Since most of Falcon's owners are former ST's owners, they want their ST games to run on the Falcon. Yes, but if the GEM compatibility is good enough for as much as 90% GEM programs, hardware differences prevent about 75% games from working. That's why Backward was created. It is supposed to handle hardware differences so that good old games can still run. Testing of it to date indicates that it offers something like 70% compatibility. **BITCAMRA:** Bitcamra - A program which is designed for the Falcon 030, but which will work on all Atari computers. It enlarges, reduces and reproportions monochrome, 4-color, 16-color, 256-color, and TrueColor images with remarkable speed and accuracy. It loads GEM IMG, ST IMG, XIMG, and XGA images. This a demo version in which "Save" is disabled.

CPLAYER: Another program allows you to play CD's with audio tracks on your CD-Rom Drive. This program is Multi-TOS compatible. System requirements: 1) Atari ST/STe/TT (Have not tried on a Falcon), 2) CD-Rom drive, 3) ICD Host Adapter (not required for TT SCSI port), 4) ICD Host Adapter software (At least version 6.0).

CHORDS: Chords, The Complete Guitar Cord Dictionary.

COLPRINT: Spectrum 512 Color Printer - This program allows you to achieve a high quality configurable color printout of any uncompressed Spectrum 512 file.

DCSEA: DC Sea V2.0 - DC SEA (Self Extracting Arc) allows you to make an executable program from an ARC,LZH,ZIP,or ZOO file that will allow you to extract or list the contents. DC SEA will also allow you to restore the executable program into a normal archive file.

DC_XTRACT: DC Xtract 2.1 - DC Xtract revolutionizes the method used to manipulate your archive files. No longer will you need to remember dozens of com-

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mand line options or be forced to use shell programs. DC Xtract handles in one program, the equivalent of four different compression-archival programs, with a user interface unmatched by any other archival system.

DEPACK: Mega Depack Release 2.12 - A program for uncompressing archive files. A new feature of V2 is the ability to recognize several popular file formats. Some may be packed others may not, but Mega Depack 2 will recommend a package to view/use/depac the file. The current files recognized are LHARC, ARC, ZOO, PK ZIP, IFF, DEGAS unpacked, NEO pics, NEO animation object files.

DIRSORT: Directory Sort - A program for resorting directories.

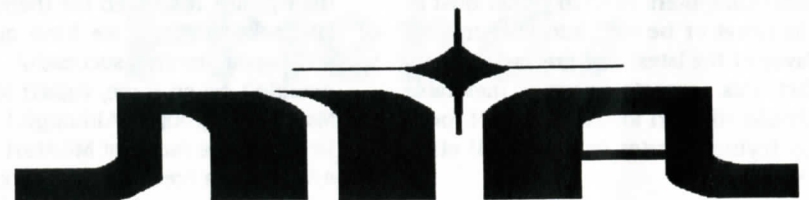
MGIE41B: MGIF 4.2 displays colour images in four gray scales in any of the ST and Falcon030 bitplane modes, and probably the TT modes as well, using a flickering technique and Floyd-Steinberg dithering to get fantastic results. In the Falcon true colour mode 32 gray scales are shown, with dithering, which looks even better. For best results at least 640x400 pixels at 60Hz is recommended. A selection of image processing tools can be applied to the image to enhance it or produce interesting effects.

DISK 448 - EDUCATIONAL DISK

MAGSPELL: A spelling program which lets you "Ask the Wizard" for advice of possible words you could have used. This program was originally intended for children to learn to spell but it turns out to be fun for spellers of all ages. Make your ten best words! Guess the secret word! Score points! Get into the Magic Spell Hali of Fame! Included is a dictionary with over 2000 words, and you keep adding your own words as you go. Includes the Magic Spell Editor for mass word entry, editing, and deletion. Runs in ST High & Medium resolution.

SASHA: Mathematics with Sasha - Sasha is a Siberian Husky dog. She will help your kids practice multiplication, addition and subtraction. Every time they answer correctly, an animated Sasha barks and gives them a "cat". If they answer wrong, Sasha whines. Six cats equal one level and every 5 levels a new surprise animation and digitized song appear. There are five surprises and then the winner gets to see Sasha's puppy! This happy dog does not penalize your child for wrong answers. After 3 incorrect answers Sasha will let your child peek at the correct number. Parents can also configure numbers used in the times tables. Your kids will love learning math with Sasha! Monochrome only.

Dennis Wilson



PRO ATARI

The gauntlet was thrown down and I accepted the challenge of presenting a case for why MilAtari should remain an Atari specific club. Let me rephrase that: **MILATARI MUST REMAIN ATARI SPECIFIC OR THE ATARI IDENTITY IN THE CLUB WILL BE LOST FOREVER!**

Now, I'm not suggesting that a member shouldn't have an interest in other computers, after all, I own an MS-DOS machine myself, nor am I denying the fact that our club is as much a social club as we are a group of computer enthusiasts. What I do believe, however, is that user's groups, in general, cannot afford to lose the focus that brought the group together in the first place! This focus becomes particularly more important as the "outside world's" interest in our computer of choice begins to wane.

Just for a moment, let's talk about the term "computer of choice". I'll try to be brief here but I wanted to remind everyone that while MS-DOS & Mac computers were certainly available for home and definitely used extensively in business during the boom time of the 1980's, we **CHOSE** to buy a computer that gave us all the competition offered and more...an Atari computer! I believe this was the right choice at the time and just because MS-DOS & Mac machines have recently become a good value, doesn't mean that our Atari computers need to gather dust in the closet or be sold into obscurity in favor of the latest and greatest. But, in fact, this scenario becomes inevitable should MilAtari lose its **CHOSEN** focus by trying to cater to any or all other systems.

WHY? Simply put, it's a matter of numbers and it's twofold.

FIRST, are the numbers of volunteers that would be needed to expand the club to even begin to cover more than one computer system. And, to be fair, if we try to cover more than one system, then we should try to cover all. Volunteers are the life blood of any group such as ours. It's tough getting enough volunteers to support a one computer club, so how do you motivate even more members that would be necessary to support a multi-platform club? Not only that but I'm talking about recruiting enough people just to get the project off the ground not necessarily enough to be truly effective.

SECOND, let's assume volunteers aren't a problem. Does anyone really believe that the number of Atari users would ever be greater than the number of MS-DOS & Mac users? I think not! The sheer volume of the latter two groups would essentially drown out any Atarians. And, assuming the club's membership began to increase proportionately because of this change of direction, we all would be hard pressed to notice that last Atari user standing alone in the corner wondering what he was doing there! (Unless he was wearing an AtariUser T-shirt or something and then, probably, just to laugh at him.)

But wait, you may have heard that other cities have multi-platform clubs and these groups seem to run computer system diversification without a hitch. Good! Fine! I'm happy that for whatever the reasons or whenever they formed their group, it worked for them. Here in Milwaukee though, we have quite large and apparently successful (or they wouldn't be so large, right?) MS-DOS & Mac user's groups. Although I am satisfied with the fact that MilAtari has been a well-organized club, I cannot begin to see the reasons why an MS-DOS or Mac user would leave their own clubs (clubs

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which I might add are computer specific) and join a much, much smaller multi-platform club. (Additionally, I can't quite comprehend why someone would join two different clubs that support the same computer or even why two different clubs might come to exist but that's a discussion for another time.)

In summary, it is just not practical or justified for MilAtari to go multi-platform. Should I want information on my MS-DOS machine, I'll ask around our club to see what I can find. If I can't find the help I need

here, maybe I'll join a specific user's group. But should I want Atari information and I assure you I will, I hope this club remains the way it is so I don't lose one of the few sources I have for finding what I need. I don't know if you feel that you got all you could out of your Atari but I don't think I have and I still want that help. After all, that's why I joined this club and have stayed. Isn't that why you joined?

Rick Janowski



Friends

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MultiTos & AtariWorks

I regret not being able to attend the September membership meeting to run the MultiTOS and AtariWorks demos, and would like to extend an apology on behalf of David and myself. We will reschedule those demos, but that date has not been set at the time of this writing. However, as sort of a "teaser," I thought I would highlight a few of the features of both programs in this article.

MultiTOS - Quick and Dirty Our first experiences with MultiTOS were much the same as others I've read about on GENIE: crash, crash, crash. It didn't take long, however, to determine what auto programs and accessories (the usual culprits) were not compatible with MultiTOS, and since then have had no problems. We use XBoot, and configure separate boot sequences for the different tasks we tackle on our system. That works very well for us, in our multi-user household.

In the beginning, I was of the opinion that I had no need to multi-task, and therefore gave little attention to David's hints and tips on the program's ins and outs. When he told me about the "animated" icons, I'd yawn, "Uh-huh, that's nice dear; pass the chips please." Multi-tasking? Who needs to run more than one program at a time anyway?

One day I booted up the 'puter and David had been playing with the settings of the window colors and all that unimportant stuff. I noticed the desktop looked unusually attractive. He had all the icons neatly arranged on the desktop for immediate program execution. Thought I'd call the bbs. Click click. The STalker icon, an old fashioned desk telephone, became animated in that the receiver lifted up off the cradle. Must be seeing things! I quit the program and tried it again. My eyes were not deceiving me!

Then the fun began. I discovered that a single click on any icon would activate it and create some appropriate action for that icon. The disk icons (file cabinet) pull a folder out; a document rises out of the folder icons; the CD icon spins; the printer icon spits out a piece of paper; paint brushes paint; tools open and close;

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DONALD A. BAHR

General Manager, Director of Purchasing

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so. Give us some
interesting stories or
information about
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ST Supplemental P.D. Disks

by: Bill Janutka

DISKS S098-S099 PICTURES (DS)

This month we have two more disks of GIF and MAC format pictures featuring comical cartoons and various boats. The viewer (VIEWGIFL.PRG) can be found on disk S098. The pictures can be viewed in color or mono. They work very nicely with low resolution. Some are larger than the screen but they can be scrolled. The viewer also features the ability to shrink the pictures down to a size that can be viewed on the screen.

Disk S098 Spoof; 29 pictures. (Viewer)

Disk S099 Boats; 15 pictures.

News Extra

by Joe Mengel

Milatari has a new Newsletter editor and I am it. This will be an interesting test since the quality of our newsletter has in my opinion been excellent and now it will be edited by a novice desktop publisher. The test will show how friendly our computers really are and the proof shall be in the continuation of a high quality newsletter. Of course the issue remains that the quality of the newsletter is tied to the quality of the information presented. The Newsletter is the easiest way for Milatarians to get published so as usual I will look to the membership to submit their ideas and stories.

This change takes place when we are in the throws of deciding our future so the newsletter takes on even greater importance since it is the vehicle by which our future will be communicated to the membership. I look forward to the task of editing the newsletter and will do my best to maintain its high quality. The newsletter needs to be our forum for communicating ideas and information.

It's time for us to make some hard decisions about this club and the newsletter is the perfect place to express how we feel about the future of Milatari. Please take a few minutes to share your experiences and feelings about the club. We don't have much control over what happens to Atari, Inc. but we have complete control over the future of this club. I'm excited about learning new things with my newsletter tutor and friend Armin Baier.

Joe

MilAtari in the age of NAFTA.

The world is in a state of turmoil. Debates exist around the globe on who to align your nation with or whether to align with any other alliances. My vote is in favor of bringing down barriers and truly creating a new world order. Despite the flaws of NAFTA it is, in my opinion, a step in the right direction.

I believe MilAtari should be a multi-platform computer enthusiast club because it has the potential of bringing new ideas, people, and creativity to a group searching for precisely these things. We are facing declining attendance at our meetings and fewer and fewer individuals willing to volunteer their time and knowledge to a computer that has an uncertain fate. I believe that the Atari computer is a fine machine capable of high quality computing but there is no denying that the market of users and hence products available is shrinking rapidly. There is no need to orient around hardware since computing techniques are similar on all platforms. In some ways I'm suggesting that we emphasize the "USER" part of our enthusiast group. Word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, data manage-

ment, etc. are very similar on any platform, at least on a rudimentary level that many users are at. Of course there are those who need to have ever increasing levels of sophistication as a result of their electronic addiction but many of us are satisfied with a more generic product. We still must all live together and in my opinion I think that we all have valuable information to exchange with each other. In a perfect computing world I'd be meeting with fellow Atarians who were enjoying an expanding creative tool for music, art, publishing, and video, but that's not the way history has written itself. In the imperfect computing world, all computers are being used for creative endeavors and I'm interested in being aware of what's going on for them as well as what I can do with my machine.

Instead of thinking in terms of an "Us" and "Them" it's time to become a larger "Us". As with NAFTA we must shift our thinking from doing only what's good for our side and start thinking about what's best for all parties involved. We must develop an "all win" way of thinking.

Joe

The MilAtari Bulletin Board is still non-function because both hard drives have crashed. In the meantime the members of MilAtari Ltd and friend are welcome and encouraged to use the Basement BBS of Armin Baier M.D. The phone number is (414) 475-6768. It is easy to learn how to use and get around in the BBS. Each room and partition has instruction of how to use the particular area. If you go on as a visitor or as a new member I will try to get on the BBS daily to verify your participation and give you extended privileges. Use the BBS for your needs both as a MilAtari club member and to communicate with your friends. If you have any questions, call me at 774-1673.

Armin

MILATARI LTD. BULLETIN BOARD

Your official source of club news and information

Want to see YOUR name in PRINT? Add your NAME to this list of phone VOLUNTEERS to ANSWER COMPUTER PROBLEMS

The following MilAtari members have offered to answer your computer questions and problems. Often the best procedure and method is to put the questions on the MilAtari Bulletin Board. (414-476-9229). If you have no access to the BBS or the trouble shooter is unavailable on the BBS, these volunteers have offered to try to answer you question by phone. Please be courteous & make your calls before 10pm, unless otherwise arranged:

Chuck Dahms	(414) 257-3040	Atari Games, and Puzzles of all kinds.
Carl Verbanac	(414) 453-3940	MilAtari BBS, and help finding PD disks
Dennis Wilson	(414) 546-0282	PD Disks problems and general Atari and PC knowledge.
Dave Glish	(414) 784-9053	with GENie, and many software programs
Armin Baier	(414) 774-1673	WordWriter, DataManager ST, SwiftCalc
Michelle Gross	(414) 628-4435	DTP with PageStream or Calamus
Dave Landskron	(414) 111-1111	Basic Lang- GEM& GIF Pics & Viewers

MilAtari would like to add YOU to this list of Volunteers who would be available to answer questions regarding hardware and software problems.

The November general meeting remains the same for this month, the third Saturday of the month, Nov. 20th. Because of the conflicting of the Thanksgiving weekend, the Board meeting has been rescheduled for December 5, 1993, at Shakey's Pizza, 96th and National Avenue. We are still in a quandry regarding the shut down of the MilAtari STadel Bulletin Board. We are in dire need of two (2) hard drives. Hopefully, a solution for this dilemma will be solved before the next general meet of MilAtari. Our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 18, 1993 at the usual general meeting room; the Greenfield Park Lutheran Church at 12:00 Noon. Bring some form of a Christmas treat, either food or drink to share with the other members. We are still hoping to have some generous Christmas door prizes. All members are welcome to come to the Board meeting on December 5th. If you have friends or know of anyone interested in learning about the Atari computers, bring them to the general meeting.

I have approximately 20 19th century borders saved in IMG, but can be transferred to MAC, or Tiny Pics. If interested for copies contact Armin R. Baier 774-1673.

